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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/780,997	02/09/2001	Ken Kutaragi	SCEI 18.303	5883

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EXAMINER

SON, LINH L D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2135

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is written in responding to the RCE filed on 08/09/05.
2. Claims 8 and 13 were canceled. Claims 16-21 are newly added claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-7, 9-12, and 14-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads et al, US Patent No. 6522769B1, hereinafter "Rhoads", in view of Melnychuck et al, EP/0651554A1, hereinafter "Melnychuck".
5. As per claims 1-3:

Rhoads discloses "a method of providing a content, characterized in that: when a content is transmitted to a user, an electronic water mark for preventing execution of said content is embedded in said content and at least information associated with the user, to whom said content is to be transmitted, is added to said content" in (Col 10 line

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59 to Col 11 line 50, and Col 15 lines 15-50); and “when said content is executed, said information associated with the user who has received said content is checked at both transmitting and receiving ends, and the execution of said content is allowed by removal of said electronic water mark if and only if the result of the checking indicates that said content is an authorized content” in (Col 11 lines 29-47).

However, Rhoads does not specifically teach the removal of said electronic watermark.

Nevertheless, Melnychuck discloses the “Method and apparatus for the addition and removal of digital watermarks in a hierarchical image storage and retrieval system” invention, which including steps of watermark removal in (Col 4 lines 30-48, Col 5 lines 35-42, and Col 9 lines 20-40).

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention was made for one having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the Melnychuck’s teaching with Rhoads invention to remove the watermark using the authorization code sent from the server after checking indicates that said content is an authorized content.

6. As per claims 4-5, 9-10, and 14-15:

Rhoads teaches “a content providing system comprising: a content provider including a content server which stores plural kinds of digital contents and also including in which information associated with a user is registered” in (Col 11 lines 35-45); “at least one user terminal; and a network for connecting said at least one user terminal to said content provider” in (Col 10 lines 50-65), “wherein: said content provider includes a user database for registering, in advance, information associated with a user received

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from said at least one user terminal; when said content provider receives from a user terminal a request for providing a particular content, said content provider requests said user terminal to resend the information associated with said user and transmits the requested content combined with said information associated with said user after checking that said information associated with said user is consistent with the information registered in said user database" in (Col 10 line 45 to Col 11 line 50); "when the content transmitted from said content provider is executed at said user terminal, said user terminal checks whether the information associated with said user included in the content is consistent with the information stored in the user terminal; and in accordance with the result of the checking performed at said user terminal, said content provider determines whether to transmit a content execution permission command to said user terminal wherein: said content provider further includes encryption means for encrypting the information associated with a user and embedding an electronic watermark in said content for preventing execution of said content. and. when said content provider receives from a user terminal a request for providing a particular content, said content-provider transmits the requested content after combining the requested content with the information associated with said user and with the electronic watermark: and wherein said content execution permission command transmitted from said content provider serves to remove said electronic watermark for allowing execution of said content" in (Col 10 line 45 to Col 11 line 50).

However, Rhoads does not specifically teach the removal of said electronic watermark.

Nevertheless, Melnychuck discloses the “Method and apparatus for the addition and removal of digital watermarks in a hierarchical image storage and retrieval system” invention, which including steps of watermark removal in (Col 4 lines 30-48, Col 5 lines 35-42, and Col 9 lines 20-40).

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention was made for one having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the Melnychuck’s teaching with Rhoads invention to remove the watermark using the authorization code sent from the server after checking indicates that said content is an authorized content.

7. Claims 6 and 11:

Rhoads and Melnychuck teach “A content providing system according to one of Claims 4-5 and 9-10, wherein said information associated with the user includes at least a user name, a password, and a device ID uniquely assigned to a device of said user” in (Col 11 lines 29-46).

8. Claims 7 and 12:

Rhoads and Melnychuck teach “a content providing system according to one of claims 4-5 and 9-10, wherein said information associated with a user received from a user terminal is registered, in advance, in the user database of said content provider, said content provider transmits to said user a card on which a card ID is stored said information associated with the user includes at least a user name, a password, a device ID uniquely assigned to a device of said user, and said card ID” in (Col 11 lines 29-46, and Col 26 lines 40-48).

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9. As per Claim 16:

Rhoads and Melnychuck teach "The method of claim 1, wherein when the result of the checking indicates that said content is an authorized content, key information for removal of said electronic watermark is transmitted to the user" in (Col 4 lines 35-45).

10. As per Claim 17:

Rhoads and Melnychuck teach "The method of claim 16, wherein the key information represents a data location of said content at which the electronic watermark is embedded" in (Col 4 lines 35-45).

11. As per Claims 18 and 21:

Rhoads and Melnychuck teach "The method of claim 16". However, Rhoads and Melnychuck does not specifically teach "further comprising the step of deleting the key information by the user after removal of the electronic watermark". Nevertheless, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention was made for one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention to implement the deletion step to provide a security mechanism to protect the apprehension of the key.

12. As per Claim 19:

Rhoads and Melnychuck teach "The content providing system of claim 4, wherein said content execution permission command transmitted from said content provider includes key information representing a data location of the content at which the electronic watermark is embedded" in (Col 4 lines 35-45).

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13. As per Claim 20:

Rhoads and Melnychuck teach "The content providing method of claim 14, wherein the key information represents a data location of the content at which the electronic watermark is embedded" in (Col 4 lines 35-45).

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linh LD Son whose telephone number is 571-272-3856. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6 (M-F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 571-272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Linh LD Son
Examiner
Art Unit 2135

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Primary Examiner
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